

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for enabling an image to be authenticated, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a digital signature associated with a device;
 - b) allowing a user to capture the image utilizing the device; and
 - c) associating the digital signature and information related to the user with the captured image wherein the digital signature and the information related to the user are capable of being utilized to authenticate the captured image.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the device is capable of electronically transmitting images.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the device comprises a digital camera.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the information related to the user comprises the user's identity.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein step c) further comprises:
 - c1) utilizing a radio frequency interface to associate the user's identity with the captured image.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the radio frequency interface includes a public/private key pair associated with the user.
7. The method of claim 4 wherein step c) further comprises:
 - c1) utilizing a smart card to associate the user's identity with the captured image.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the smart card includes a private key and a related public
2 key wherein the private key and the related public key are associated with the user.

1 9. The method of claim 6 wherein step c1) further comprises:

2 c1a) associating the private key with the captured image.

1 10. The method of claim 8 wherein step c1) further comprises:

2 c1a) associating the private key with the captured image.

1 11. The method of claim 9 wherein step c1a) comprises the steps of:

2 1) storing the captured image and the digital signature in a file,
3 wherein the file is located within a memory of the digital camera;

4 2) hashing the file thereby producing a digest; and

5 3) associating the digest with the private key.

1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein step c1a) comprises the steps of:

2 2) storing the captured image and the digital signature in a file,
3 wherein the file is located within a memory of the digital camera;

4 2) hashing the file thereby producing a digest; and

5 3) associating the digest with the private key.

1 13. A system for incorporating information into an image, the system comprising:

2 means for producing a digital signature uniquely associated with a device;

3 means for allowing a user to utilize the device to capture the image; and

4 means for associating the digital signature and information related to the user with the
5 captured image.

1 14. The system of claim 13 wherein the device is capable of electronically transmitting
2 images.

1 15. The system of claim 14 wherein the device comprises a digital camera.

1 16. The system of claim 15 wherein the information related to the user comprises the user's
2 identity.

1 17. The system of claim 16 wherein the means for associating further comprises:
2 means for utilizing a radio frequency interface to associate the user's identity with the
3 captured image.

1 18. The system of claim 17 wherein the radio frequency interface includes a public/private
2 key pair associated with the user.

1 19. The system of claim 15 wherein the means for associating further comprises:
2 means for utilizing a smart card to associate the user's identity with the captured image.

1 20. The system of claim 19 wherein the smart card includes a private key and a related public
2 key wherein the private key and the related public key are associated with the user.

1 21. The system of claim 18 wherein the means for associating further comprises:
2 means for associating the private key with the captured image.

1 22. The system of claim 20 wherein the means for associating further comprises:
2 means for associating the private key with the captured image.

1 23. The system of claim 21 wherein the means for associating the private key with the
2 captured image comprises:
3 means for storing the captured image and the digital signature in a file, wherein the file is
4 located within a memory of the digital camera;
5 means for hashing the file thereby producing a digest; and
6 means for associating the digest with the private key.

1 24. The system of claim 22 wherein the means for associating the private key with the
2 captured image comprises:

3 means for storing the captured image and the digital signature in a file, wherein the file is
4 located within a memory of the digital camera;

5 means for hashing the file thereby producing a digest; and

6 means for associating the digest with the private key.

1 25. A computer readable medium containing program instructions for enabling an image to
2 be authenticated, the program instructions comprising the steps of:

3 a) providing a digital signature associated with a device;

4 b) allowing a user to capture the image utilizing the device; and

5 c) associating the digital signature and information related to the user with the
6 captured image wherein the digital signature and the information related to the user are capable
7 of being utilized to authenticate the captured image.

1 26. The computer readable medium of claim 25 wherein the device is capable of
2 electronically transmitting images.

1 27. The computer readable medium of claim 26 wherein the device comprises a digital
2 camera.

1 28. The computer readable medium of claim 27 wherein the information related to the user
2 comprises the user's identity.

1 29. The computer readable medium of claim 28 wherein step c) further comprises:

2 c1) utilizing a radio frequency interface to associate the user's identity with the
3 captured image.

1 30. The computer readable medium of claim 29 wherein the radio frequency interface
2 includes a public/private key pair associated with the user.

1 31. The computer readable medium of claim 28 wherein step c) further comprises:

2 c1) utilizing a smart card to associate the user's identity with the captured image.

1 32. The computer readable medium of claim 31 wherein the smart card includes a private
2 key and a related public key wherein the private key and the related public key are associated
3 with the user.

1 33. The method of claim 30 wherein step c1) further comprises:

2 c1a) associating the private key with the captured image.

1 34. The method of claim 32 wherein step c1) further comprises:

2 c1a) associating the private key with the captured image.

1 35. The computer readable medium of claim 33 wherein step c1a) comprises the steps of:

2 1) storing the captured image and the digital signature in a file, wherein the file is
3 located within a memory of the digital camera;

4 2) hashing the file thereby producing a digest; and

5 3) associating the digest with the private key.

1 36. The computer readable medium of claim 34 wherein step c1a) comprises the steps of:

2 1) storing the captured image and the digital signature in a file, wherein the file is
3 located within a memory of the digital camera;

4 2) hashing the file thereby producing a digest; and

5 3) associating the digest with the private key.